

# Agribusiness Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER  
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
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## What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

### Missouri Numbers:



**2,406 Employers**



**47,885 Workers**



**\$55,183 Average Wage**

### Why Have a Career in Agribusiness?

Agribusiness represents 1.9 percent of total private sector employment in Missouri, employing more than 47,800 workers in over 2,400 businesses in 2023. Employment in Agribusiness has been steadily growing, increasing an average of 2.1 percent per year from 2018 to 2023. Missouri has high employment concentrations in Agribusiness, particularly in *Agriculture Chemical Manufacturing*, *Dairy Product Manufacturing*, and *Animal Processing and Slaughtering*. Wages in Agribusiness averaged \$55,183 in 2023, lower than the \$62,563 state average for private industries.

Various careers are possible in fields such as Crop & Animal Production, Research & Development, Logging, and Business Operations & Sales.

### Know the Basics

Agribusiness is defined as the group of industries dealing with agricultural products and services required in farming and food production. Soft skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations, including Agribusiness occupations.

### Skills needed for Success:

Agribusiness is a rapidly evolving industry. Understanding environmental impact on crops and livestock, as well as, keeping up with new research in crop, water, and soil management are important. Safety issues and quality control are also a critical part of this industry, so attention to detail and continuous learning are necessary.

### Who's Hiring in Missouri?

**MFA Inc.**

**Simmons Prepared Foods**

**Tyson Foods Inc.**

**Bunge**

**Dairy Farmers of America**



## Crop & Animal Production

## Research & Development

### Now

#### Short-Term On-the-Job Training

**Slaughterers & Meat Packers**  
Entry: \$40,040 Average: \$41,880

**Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators**  
Entry: \$37,710 Average: \$44,370

**Conveyor Operators & Tenders**  
Entry: \$34,810 Average: \$40,480

**Certificates:** Forklift Operator Safety Training

**Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, & Samplers, Recordkeeping**  
Entry: \$36,160 Average: \$43,040

**Certificates:** American Society for Quality (ASQ), Certified Quality Auditor

### Next

#### Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

**Agricultural Equipment Operators**  
Entry: \$36,920 Average: \$41,240

**Farmers, Ranchers, & Other Agricultural Mgrs.**  
Entry: \$50,610 Average: \$77,720

**Farm Labor Contractors**  
Entry: N/A; Average: N/A

**Degrees:** Agricultural Business & Management

**Agricultural Technicians**  
Entry: \$36,930 Average: \$55,980

**Occupational Health & Safety Technicians**  
Entry: \$50,370 Average: \$62,900

**Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, & Weighers**  
Entry: \$38,600 Average: \$50,740

**Degrees:** Chemistry, Environmental Health  
**Certificates:** American Society for Quality (ASQ), Certified Quality Auditor

### Later

#### Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

**Industrial Production Managers**  
Entry: \$80,910 Average: \$117,000

**Agricultural Inspectors**  
Entry: \$39,930 Average: \$46,230

**Degrees:** Engineering, Business Administration and Management

**Food Scientists & Technologists**  
Entry: \$59,820 Average: \$95,510

**Industrial Engineers**  
Entry: \$76,060 Average: \$99,270

**Soil & Plant Scientists**  
Entry: \$70,440 Average: \$92,580

**Degrees:** Agriculture, Food Science, Engineering, Horticultural Science

#### Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse  
2023 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Top employers data is based on 2024 online job ads



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## Logging

## Business Operations & Sales

### Now

#### Short-Term On-the-Job Training

**Laborers & Freight, Stock, &  
Material Movers, Hand**  
Entry: \$32,020 Average: \$38,520

**Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators**  
Entry: \$37,710 Average: \$44,370

**Certificates:** Forklift Operator Safety Training

**Driver/Sales Workers**  
Entry: \$27,180 Average: \$42,050

**Shipping, Receiving, & Traffic Clerks**  
Entry: \$34,060 Average: \$40,840

**Office Clerks, General**  
Entry: \$32,200 Average: \$43,330

**Certificates:** Business Operations Certificates

### Next

#### Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

**Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers**  
Entry: \$43,620 Average: \$53,440

**Fallers**  
Entry: \$31,550 Average: \$45,940

**Logging Equipment Operators**  
Entry: \$33,310 Average: \$45,650

**Certificates:** Commercial Driver's License,  
Construction/Heavy Equipment/Earthmoving  
Equipment Operation

**Sales Representatives, Wholesale & Manufacturing**  
Entry: \$45,820 Average: \$74,090

**Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks**  
Entry: \$36,730 Average: \$46,990

**Transportation, Storage, & Distribution Managers**  
Entry: \$64,980 Average: \$98,630

**Degrees:** Accounting Technology/Technician,  
Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain  
Management  
**Certificates:** QuickBooks

### Later

#### Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

**Foresters**  
Entry: \$49,150 Average: \$60,160

**Accountants & Auditors**  
Entry: \$52,830 Average: \$84,540

**Buyers and Purchasing Agents**  
Entry: \$47,360 Average: \$70,690

**Marketing Managers**  
Entry: \$77,700 Average: \$127,280

**Degrees:** Forestry, Natural  
Resources/Conservation

**Degrees:** Accounting, Finance, Marketing  
**Certificates:** Certified Professional Public Buyer

#### Sources: Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse  
2023 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics  
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